



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Awards Fire Grants to Rural Communities

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management has awarded \$81,000 to 10 rural fire departments in Grant, Sierra and Hidalgo Counties, according to Amy Lueders, BLM field office manager in Las Cruces.

“These rural fire assistance funds are to enhance the wildland fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments and are a key element of the National Fire Plan,” Lueders said.

In Grant County awards went to: Lower Mimbres, \$10,000 for pumps, personal protection equipment (PPE) and radios; Upper Mimbres, \$9,000 for a float pump, hose, porta tank, tools, foam and fittings; Santa Rita, \$13,000 for slip-on tools, pumps, hose and fittings; Sapillo Creek, \$2,000 for PPE, pump and packs; Cliff-Gila, \$4,000 for PPE, pumps and packs, and Pinos Altos, \$13,000 for PPE, pumps and tools.

In Sierra County Hillsboro received \$10,000 for radios, and Las Palomas received \$8,000 for personal protective equipment, tools and training.

In Hidalgo County Playas received \$10,000 for a new truck, and Cotton City, \$2,000 for fuel truck tools and a NV monocular.

Emphasis was on selecting fire departments and proposals that protect rural communities and fire departments with a substantial role in protecting federal lands. Communities are required to match at least 10 percent of the award amount, according to Whiteaker.